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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1     1. A method in a content engine for dynamically providing a portal in a content distributed network, comprising the steps of:
  - 3         receiving a request for the portal from a client system;
  - 4         accessing a portal template in response to the request, the portal template having at least one dynamic portion;
  - 6         including into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to content cached in the content engine and information about content availability to generate a portal page; and
  - 9         providing the portal page to the client system.
- 1     2. The method of claim 1 wherein including information about content availability further comprises the steps of:
  - 3         comparing a replication status to a catalog of files carried in the content engine to determine what files are locally cached and what files remain to be downloaded; and
  - 5         writing a list of files that remain to be downloaded to the portal page with an indicator of unavailability.
- 1     3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of including links to content cached in the content engine further comprises the steps of:
  - 3         checking a replication status of the content engine to determine available cached content; and
  - 5         including into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to content found in the replication status.
- 1     4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of hiding at least one link to content not found in the replication status in the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template.

1       5. The method of claim 1 wherein the portal template includes at least one applet and the  
2       step of including links into the portal template comprises running the at least one applet  
3       to acquire at least one pointer to content cached in the content engine.

1       6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of providing the portal template  
2       having at least one applet to the client system and wherein the client system instantiates  
3       the portal template including at least one applet and executes the at least one applet to  
4       acquire content cached in the content engine.

1       7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of accessing the portal template further  
2       comprises reading a template stored in the content engine.

1       8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of accessing the portal template further  
2       comprises accessing a template stored at a portal page server in the content distributed  
3       network.

1       9. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a redirected request from the client  
2       system, redirected away from a central site and to the content engine by a content router  
3       in the content distributed network.

1       10. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a search request and the method further  
2       comprises the steps of:

3              querying a central server in response to the search request; and  
4              receiving a list of files in response to querying the central server; and  
5       wherein the step of including links to content further comprises including links to files  
6       from the list cached in the content engine.

1       11. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is received at the content engine based on  
2       a network location of the content engine with respect to the client system.

1       12. A method in a content engine for dynamically providing a portal to a channel in a  
2       content distributed network, the channel having content, comprising the steps of:  
3               receiving a request for the channel portal from a client system;  
4               accessing a channel portal template in response to the request, the channel portal  
5       template having at least one dynamic portion;  
6               including into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template  
7       links to content cached in the content engine and information about content availability to  
8       generate a channel portal page; and  
9               providing the channel portal page to the client system.

1       13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of including links to content further  
2       includes the steps of:  
3               checking a replication status of the content engine to determine channel content  
4       available at the content engine; and  
5               including into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template  
6       links to channel content found in the replication status to generate the channel portal  
7       page.

1       14. The method of claim 12 wherein the request includes a search query for content in  
2       the channel, wherein the channel portal template includes an applet accepting a first input  
3       of the search query and a second input of a list of content in the channel and wherein the  
4       step of including links to content further includes the steps of:  
5               executing the applet to find content matching the search query;  
6               determining whether the content matching the search query is cached at the  
7       content engine; and  
8               including into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template  
9       links to channel content cached at the content engine.

1    15. A content engine for dynamically providing a portal in a content distributed network,  
2    comprising:

3                 a network interface to receive a request for a portal from a client system;  
4                 a storage device to store content from the content distributed network and a portal  
5    template having at least one dynamic portion; and  
6                 a controller coupled to the interface and the storage device, the controller  
7    configured to access the portal template in response to the request, to include in the at  
8    least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to content cached in the content  
9    engine and information about content availability to generate a portal page, and to  
10   provide the portal page to the client system.

1    16. The content engine of claim 15 wherein the storage device further includes a  
2    replication status of the content engine and the controller is further configured to check  
3    the replication status to determine available cached content, the controller further to  
4    include into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to content found  
5    in the replication status.

1    17. The content engine of claim 15 wherein the portal template includes at least one  
2    applet and the controller is further configured to run the at least one applet to acquire at  
3    least one pointer to content cached in the content engine.

1    18. The content engine of claim 15 wherein the portal is a channel portal and the portal  
2    template is a channel portal template and the controller is further configured to include  
3    into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template links to content  
4    cached in the content engine to generate a channel portal page.

1    19. The content engine of claim 18 wherein the storage device further stores a replication  
2    status of the content engine and the controller is further configured to check the  
3    replication status to determine channel content available at the content engine and to

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4 include into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template links to  
5 channel content found in the replication status to generate a channel portal page.

1 20. The content engine of claim 18 wherein the request includes a search query for  
2 content in the channel, wherein the channel portal template includes an applet that  
3 accepts a first input of the search query and a second input of a list of content in the  
4 channel, and wherein the controller is further configured to execute the applet to find  
5 content matching the search query, to determine whether the content matching the search  
6 query is cached at the content engine, and to include into the at least one dynamic portion  
7 of the channel portal template links to channel content cached at the content engine.

1 21. A method in a content distributed network for dynamically providing a Web portal to  
2 the content distributed network, comprising the steps of:

3 providing a manifest file to establish a channel of content in the content  
4 distributed network, the manifest file describing channel content, the manifest file further  
5 including a portal template, the portal template including at least one dynamic portion;

6 providing at least one content engine to cache a portion of channel content and to  
7 cache the portal template;

8 receiving at the at least one content engine a request for the Web portal from a  
9 client system;

10 accessing by the at least one content engine the portal template in response to the  
11 request;

12 including by the at least one content engine into the least one dynamic portion of  
13 the portal template links to content cached in the content engine to generate a Web portal  
14 page; and

15 providing by the content engine the Web portal page to the client system.

1 22. A computer program product having a computer-readable medium including  
2 computer program logic encoded thereon that, when performed on a computer system  
3 having a coupling of a memory, a processor, and at least one communications interface,

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- 4 provides a method for dynamically providing a Web portal in a content distributed
- 5 network by performing the operations of:
  - 6 receiving a request for the portal from a client system;
  - 7 accessing a portal template in response to the request, the portal template having
  - 8 at least one dynamic portion;
  - 9 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to
  - 10 content cached in the content engine and information about content availability to
  - 11 generate a portal page; and
  - 12 providing the portal page to the client system.